

Bombs away!

The standings of the 2003 fourth quarter Nighthawk bombing competition are:

- 1 – 9th Fighter Squadron
- 2 – 7th Combat Training Squadron
- 3 – 49th Operations Group
- 4 – 49th Fighter Wing
- 5 – 8th Fighter Squadron
- 6 – 49th Operations Support Squadron

Briefly

Static display

This month's static display of an F-117A, an F-4F, a T-38A and a German Tornado is 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday at Hangar 500.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at 572-5406

Airman's Attic

All ranks day at the Airman's Attic is Saturday. When dropping off items, leave them in the drop off bin.

Blood drive

There's a blood drive 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., today at the community center.

Inside

- Crossword puzzle ... 3
- Anthrax 4
- Air Force News 7
- Mission feature 8-9

Holloman lends helping hand

by Senior Airman
Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 80 Tularosa High School teachers and staff cheered as a team of Holloman volunteers unloaded 50 computer monitors, four printers and two computer towers Monday.

During the winter break, the school was vandalized, causing \$150,000 in damage, but volunteers came to the rescue to clean up broken glass and replace vandalized equipment before students returned after the break Tuesday.

"We wouldn't have been able to replace the damaged equipment for months," said school superintendent Brenda Vigil. "It's just wonderful. The students have immediate access to computers, which was made possible by the selfless act of all the volunteers from the local communities and Holloman."

Team Holloman members started the ball rolling to find volunteers and equipment. Ms. Donna DiRoma, 46th Test Group secretary and Capt. Terri Gonderman, 49th Communications Squadron, teamed up to help the school. They started by contacting base agencies and finding excess equipment that could be donated.

"We were devastated after hearing about the vandalism," Ms. DiRoma said. "We all live in this community, so we all pull together in the tough times. The overwhelming base support was more

see **COMPUTERS** on Page 6



Photo by Tom Fuller

Staff Sgt. Melvin Davis, 49th Communications Squadron Network Management NCO and Mr. Michael Potter, Detachment 1, 46th Test Group Administration Assistant, were part of the Holloman team that delivered 50 computer monitors, four printers and two computer towers to the Tularosa High School Monday. The computer donations replace vandalized equipment.



High: 62
Low: 24
TODAY



High: 62
Low: 26
SATURDAY



High: 60
Low: 28
SUNDAY



High: 54
Low: 25
MONDAY

There's no need to complain about 'another exercise'

by Staff Sgt. Nate Hier

3rd Wing Public Affairs, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK

Exercises can undoubtedly be a colossal pain in the south end of a north-bound horse. When the kids are sick and can't go to the child development center, Mom's on days and Dad's on nights, there are times when it's hard to keep a positive outlook on why we have to train like we do.

Answering the phone to a recall at about 4 a.m. or so on a Wednesday, knowing immediately you won't get a day off for quite awhile, can make it easy to lose sight of the reason that call came.

That is until you take a few minutes to pick up a paper or watch the news.

Our comrades-in-arms in Iraq and Afghanistan aren't worried about working through weekends — they're worried about accomplishing the mission and coming home in one piece. They're not looking forward to a day off; they're worried about when and where the next mortar attack might come from. You

could get all that just from watching the news. And that might make you think twice before complaining about playing your part in an operational readiness exercise at home.

I'm ashamed to say I have even more reason to understand why we exercise, and I have no right to complain. Like many people, I've got friends over there right now and others who just returned. To say the least, it's no trip to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

I don't mean it wasn't a worthy accomplishment to have served in operations Northern Watch or Southern Watch. In this day and age of operations tempo, virtually any of us who have been in a couple of years have made at least one, if not multiple trips to Southwest Asia. Any time you spend away from family and friends to protect the freedoms we hold dear is an important and noble sacrifice; however, when I think about my last trip to the sandbox, it's about a million miles away from what our brothers are going through right now as we do our part in the exercise and then

go home to sleep in our own beds.

The only bunker run I made in three months in Saudi lasted about 15 minutes — and it was just for an accountability exercise. In many places, they're making multiple, real-world bunker runs every week. There's a reason people are dying over there — it's no exercise, and it isn't going to end in eight days.

Exercises aren't fun — they're not supposed to be. It's not a "company line" when we tell reporters we train year-round like this so we're ready for deployments at a moment's notice. It's not a line at all. It's who we are, it's what we volunteered to do, and it's the reason our nation enjoys more freedoms than any other country in the world.

As I walked upstairs to catch a couple hours of sleep, I could only laugh at myself for having been so foolish. It was quite a morning for the Hier clan. My son's fever had broken, one sister gave birth to a healthy 5-pound, 11-ounce girl and another got out of jail, hopefully for the last time. And I'd been right here at home to take every call.

Holloman Hotline 572-7500



The Hotline is your direct link to the 49th Fighter Wing commander. If you've tried to solve the problem yourself and haven't been able to get results, call 572-7500 or e-mail cc.hotline@holloman.af.mil. Leave your name and phone number so the office of primary concern can contact

you. Before submitting a Hotline, please give the appropriate agencies a chance to work out the problem. If you want to pass on praise for a job well done, please contact the supervisor or commander directly who can provide the appropriate recognition to the individual or group. The unit commanders and agency chiefs want to help. Let them try first.

Water woes

Q: I was calling in regard to the construction and the dirt on Fairchild Avenue. For housing residents, we're not allowed to wash any concrete with water, but the construction workers wash everyday. I would much rather have a dusty car than a muddy car. I was wondering if we could look into that and stop the water usage on the road, because I don't like washing my car all of the time and it's probably a waste of water, too.



Thank you for bringing this to my attention. All contractors on base are required to use dust control measures, which typically is water. Unfortunately, too much water was being used, which created mud.

The base contractor has been contacted, and they will be limiting water usage. They're also responsible for any mud that is created.

Thanks for your concern and interest in the safety and appearance of Holloman.

Housing Office 572-3981
Housing Maintenance 572-7901
Finance 572-5107
Services 572-3528
Base Exchange 479-6164
Fraud, Waste, and Abuse 572-3713
Medical Clinic 572-5991
Commissary 572-5127

DUI Update

Days since last DUI **27**
 DUIs this year **9**
 This week last year **8**

Last six DUIs

- 49 MOS Dec. 13
- 49 CS Nov. 27
- 49 CES* Nov. 26
- 49 GAF Nov. 23
- 49 MXS Nov. 23
- 49 AMXS Nov. 16

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

148 Saves this year
11 Saves this week



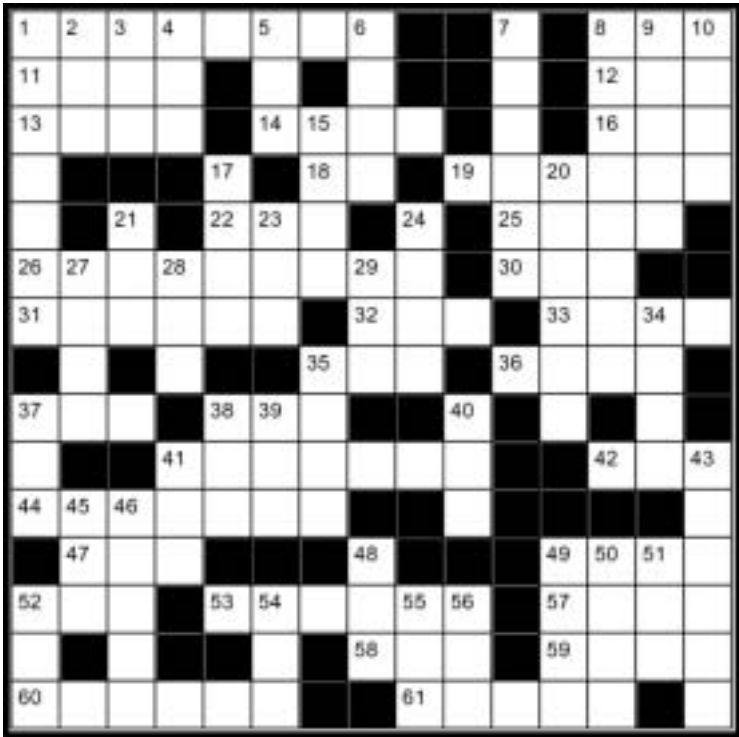
Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt 49th Fighter Wing commander
 Maj. John Bryan Public Affairs director
 1st Lt. Nora Eyle Public Affairs deputy director
 Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud NCOIC
 Senior Airman Martha Whipple Editor
 Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy Staff writer
 Airman Stephen Collier Staff writer
 Laura Pellegrino Staff writer

The SUNBURST is published by Alamogordo Daily News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the SUNBURST are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force or Alamogordo Daily News, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliations or

any other nonmerit fact of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Holloman Public Affairs Office. All photos used are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. For editorial information call (505) 572-3515. Stories should be submitted directly to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail to 49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil or mailed to **49 FW/PA, 490 First Street, Suite 2800, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., 88330-8287**. All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity, and conformity to regulations. The delivery of the SUNBURST to Holloman on-base family housing sections is provided by Alamogordo Daily News. The deadline for submitting articles to the SUNBURST is 4 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. For advertising information, call (505) 437-7120.



Hometown Xword

ACROSS

1. Texas AFB home to 37th TW; air-
craft tail marking of LD
8. Hit
11. Church altar
12. Bar drink
13. German for no
14. Road tax?
16. Elevated part of the Earth
(abbrev.)
18. Postal abbrev. for state home
to 436th AW
19. Automotive maker
22. Former 70-80s band (abbrev.)
25. Dampens
26. South Dakota AFB home to 28th
BW; a/c tail marking of EL
30. Lemon drink
31. Japan AB home to 374th AW; a/
c tail marking of YJ
32. Head cover
33. Immerses
35. Cat call
36. Late night host
37. Zodiac sign
38. Meaning three
41. Conductor
42. Pod vegetable
44. California AFB home to 412th
TW; a/c tail marking of ED
47. Age
49. Actress Laura of *Jurassic Park*
52. Babylonian measure of length
53. California AFB; home to 60th
AMW
57. Snack food
58. *Lord of the Rings* character
59. Impress letter/design on a book
cover
60. Nebraska AFB home to 55 WG;
a/c tail marking of OF
61. Texas AFB home to 7th BW; a/c
tail marking of DY

DOWN

1. Virginia AFB home to 1FW; a/c

- tail marking of FF
2. Mock
3. CBS show
4. Barbie's mate
5. Model Carol
6. Fmr. Kansas senator
7. Japan AB home to 35th FW; a/c
tail marking of WW
8. Germany AB home to 86th AW;
a/c tail marking of RS
9. Oklahoma AFB home to 97th
AMW
10. Actor Sean
15. Smell
17. Former Speaker of the House
Gingrich
20. RAF marshal in North Africa
(1941-43)
21. Largest member of deer family
23. Military appreciation paperwork
(abbrev.)
24. South Carolina AFB home to
20th FW; a/c tail marking of SW
27. Ancient history
28. Roman sun god
29. Article
34. North Carolina AFB home to 23rd
FG; a/c tail marking of FT
35. Little lady
37. Virginia Army fort
38. Road material
39. Color in light spectrum between
orange and infrared
40. Male offspring
41. Homo sapien
43. Tennessee AFB home to AEDC
45. NBA coach ____ Harris
46. *Who's Afraid of Virginia* _____
48. Street equivalent (abbrev.)
49. Spots
50. Greek god of love
51. Truck manufacturer
52. Former name for Tokyo
54. Fink
55. State home to 181st FW; air-
craft tail marking TH (abbrev.)

Officials examine anthrax decision

by Jim Garamone

*American Forces
Press Service*

Department of Defense officials and lawyers with the Justice Department are examining a decision handed down by a federal judge Dec. 22 that ordered DoD to stop anthrax vaccinations for U.S. service members without their consent.

No one would comment on the ruling beyond saying the appropriate people are studying it.

“The lawyers are examining it,” Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said. “And at the appropriate time, they’ll be making a recommendation as to the way forward.”

Pentagon officials said the anthrax vaccination program continues.

Servicemembers set to receive shots should report for them. The court case is limited to servicemembers who don’t want to receive the shot, defense officials said.

DoD officials consider anthrax vaccination for people deploying to high-threat areas as crucial.

“We don’t send soldiers into battle without helmets,” said a defense official.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stressed the military need for the vaccinations.

“This drug that we’re using, the vaccine has been around for 40 years,” said Gen. Richard B. Myers. “It is not experimental. It’s approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Anthrax is still a worry in many parts of the world, General Myers said.

The vaccines are needed to protect American troops, said Dr. William Winkenwird, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. The FDA guides everything the department does.

“We follow FDA regulations scrupulously in the use of the anthrax vaccine and all medi-

“The vaccine has been around for 40 years. It’s not experimental. It’s approved by the FDA.”

Gen. Richard B. Myers
Joints Chiefs of Staff chairman

cally regulated products,” he said.

The FDA has licensed the product for all use, the doctor said. Other independent groups agree with the FDA assessment.

DoD officials were surprised about the decision.

It was out of step with current science and out of keeping with the need for force protection, Dr. Winkenwird said.

About 1 million servicemembers have received the vaccinations since the program started in 1998, he said. Some 650,000 servicemembers have received the six-shot series since June 2002. Of that number, about 10 servicemembers have refused to get the shots.

The FDA approved the vaccine in 1970. The court’s decision questioned the FDA contention that the vaccine was effective against aerosolized anthrax, the most likely bioterror weapon. This judge’s decision is counter to the FDA’s own decisions, the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine and the judgment of the most eminent experts on this topic, officials said.

Dr. Winkenwird stressed that the department’s paramount concern is for the safety of servicemembers.

The vaccine has been put through the most rigorous testing, he said. The vaccine has very few side effects, similar to other vaccines, and these are mild and temporary, officials said.

Holloman's HAWC offers healthy highlights for new year

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Diet and weight-loss advice can be found virtually anywhere: the Internet, Aunt Sally or almost any magazine. But, a Holloman Health and Wellness Center diet therapist offers tips to keep Team Holloman on their toes when it comes to weight-loss and eating healthy.

Some people may think the food pyramid is an ancient pharaoh's tomb in Egypt, but it's actually the place to start if eating healthier and losing weight is this New Year's Resolution.

"Everyone wants a quick fix when it comes to losing weight, but be careful who you're getting your nutritional advice from," said Staff Sgt. Michelle Goss, HAWC diet therapist. "Just because someone is a doctor doesn't make them a dietitian, even if they have their own book."

Carbohydrate intake isn't what causes weight gain, she said. People are gaining weight because they're eating too much of everything and not exercising enough or not at all.

Fad diets are catchy and can help people lose weight "instantly." The truth is, according to Sergeant Goss, people have to adjust their everyday eating habits in order to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

"Getting a variety of food is very important to providing the body with essential nutrients," she said. "People can get all the nutrients they need from choosing healthier foods like lean meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and whole grains."

The food pyramid is a guide and a start to a healthier lifestyle. It recommends daily consumption of six to 11 servings from the bread, cereal, rice and pasta group; two to four servings from the fruit group; three to five servings from the vegetable group; and two to three servings from the meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts group. Fats, oils and sweets should be used sparingly. Caloric needs will determine how many servings of each food group should be consumed in a day.

For example, a 6-foot male marathon runner should consume more calories than a 5-foot female couch potato.

"Patience, consistency and realistic goals are the keys to effective weight control," Sergeant Goss said. "People who lose weight slowly by modifying their lifestyles are the most successful in keeping pounds off. Planning for weight loss of one or two pounds each week is a realistic goal. Living a healthier lifestyle will help people look, feel and be healthier,"

Officials: Force faces challenges

by Staff Sgt. Matt Miller
AFPC Public Affairs

The service's top enlisted leader assured a group of more than 200 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian family support center workers at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, that the Air Force is working hard to overcome challenges in readiness and manning levels.

"Our family readiness is absolutely a direct component of our military readiness ... our ability to fight and win our nation's wars," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said to the total force group during the 2003 Family Support Center readiness conference.

He emphasized the need to tell airmen and their families the challenges facing the Air Force.

"We're challenged today with a force structure that's not right," the chief said. "We're not sized right and we don't have airmen in the jobs and skills that we need them in today."

But, there's a five-year plan, through 2008, that's going to increase the number of security forces specialists, one of the most "stressed" career fields, he said. As a result, one of every nine airmen entering the service is going into security forces.

Retraining current airmen and Career Job

Reservations will help put the right people where they are needed most, he said.

"We have not used CJRs since 1999," the chief said. "This year we will turn CJRs back on."

The Air Force also retrained an additional 1,400 airmen into shortage career fields, he said. "We're about to announce the second year of retraining with another 1,400.

"As busy as we are, we have 16,600 airmen more than what we are funded to be able to have in our Air Force," Chief Murray said. Trimming the number of airmen in some career fields while increasing the number in others is "one of the great challenges we will face this year and next year."

Despite the challenges, the chief sounded a positive note.

"If you look at our pay, our benefits and the quality of life from which we measure, there's no time in the history of the Air Force that an airman has made the money or had the benefits than they do for their service today," he said. "The targeted pay raise that will come out in January will again raise...pay by hundreds of dollars a month for some of our airmen.

"The good news is that these are the issues Air Staff is working through," he said, "and we'll continue to fight for the quality of life and benefits."

Healthy highlights

- Drink a glass of water a few minutes before you sit down to eat
- Eat slower to give your stomach time to tell you that you're full
- Slowly cut back the size of your portions
- Serve food on smaller plates
- Don't go back for seconds
- Choose low-calorie, low-fat foods
- Fill up on fruits and vegetables
- Limit alcohol and sugar intake
- Eat fewer breaded and fried foods
- Remove skin from poultry
- Trim excess fat from meat
- Beware of sauces and dressing

Choose foods that CUT Calories



Instead of ...	Choose
Chocolate bar 200 calories	Apple 80 calories
Potato chips 304 calories	Pretzels 216 calories
3 chocolate chip cookies 200 calories	4 Graham crackers 120 calories
Cheeseburger 608 calories	Hamburger plain 426 calories
Sausage, egg and biscuit 581 calories	Bagel with cream cheese 295 calories
Soda 12 oz. 152 calories	Bottled water 12 oz. 0 calories

People can lose an average of one pound per week by cutting 500 calories a day.

Body mass index table

Your ideal body weight is a function of your age, gender, body build and the amount of body fat. The BMI has been developed as a simple guide that factors in all of these considerations. The higher your BMI score, the greater your risk for weight-related health problems. To determine your score, find your height at the left, then move across to your weight. Your BMI score is at the top of the column. If you BMI falls below normal or into the overweight obese range, your weight may put you at risk for health problems.

BMI	Normal						Overweight				Obese	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30+
5'0"	97	102	107	112	118	123	128	133	138	143	148	153+
5'1"	100	106	111	116	122	127	132	137	143	148	153	158+
5'2"	104	109	115	120	126	131	136	142	147	153	158	164+
5'3"	107	113	118	124	130	135	141	146	152	158	163	169+
5'4"	110	116	122	128	134	140	145	151	157	163	169	174+
5'5"	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	161	168	174	180+
5'6"	118	124	130	136	142	148	155	161	167	173	179	186+
5'7"	121	127	134	140	146	153	159	166	172	178	185	191+
5'8"	125	131	138	144	151	158	164	171	177	184	190	197+
5'9"	128	135	142	149	155	162	169	176	182	189	196	203+
5'10"	132	139	146	153	160	167	174	181	188	195	202	209+
5'11"	136	143	150	157	165	172	179	186	193	200	208	215+
6'0"	140	147	154	162	169	177	184	191	199	206	213	221+
6'1"	144	151	159	166	174	182	189	197	204	212	219	227+
6'2"	148	155	163	171	179	186	194	202	210	218	225	233+
6'3"	152	160	168	176	184	192	200	208	216	224	232	240+
6'4"	156	164	172	180	189	197	205	213	221	230	238	246+

Source: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute



Courtesy photo

Good-bye Tarzan

Team Holloman lost an 8-year member assigned to the Military Working Dog section Dec. 5. A memorial was held for Tarzan at the Military Working Dog Kennels. Tarzan, a 10-year, 7-month-old German Shepherd, entered the MWD Program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in January 1995. He was certified as a patrol/narcotic detector dog in September 1995. During the eight years he supported the base, he served 12 handlers. His accomplishments include: An October-December 1996 temporary-duty assignment to San Francisco supporting the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency finding over \$525,000 in narcotics and related funds. Tarzan attended the 2000 Southwest Police K-9 Trials in Las Cruces, N.M., receiving an honorable mention. Tarzan will be missed by those who handled him as well as those handlers currently assigned to the MWD section.

COMPUTERS

Continued from Page One

than anyone could have asked for.”

Volunteers from the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, 46th TG and 49th CS worked together to clean up the vandalized building and to set up the donated equipment.

“It wasn’t until the day the computers were replaced that I actually felt tears come to my eyes,” said Sandra Smith, the school’s librarian. “It made me so happy to see what all the volunteers did to help us out.”

No one has been charged with vandalizing Tularosa High School.

If anyone has any information about the crime, call the



Photo by Tom Fuller

Fifty computer monitors were vandalized at Tularosa High School during winter break.

Otero County Crime stoppers at 437-2000 or (800) 526-2279. Crimestoppers offers a

reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne Jenkins

Senior Airman Lindsey Whicker hands a box of water to an Iranian soldier as part of humanitarian relief efforts. Whicker is part of a C-130 Hercules crew which airlifted 20 pallets of humanitarian supplies to Iran after an earthquake destroyed the city of Bam.

Airmen provide aid

An Air National Guard C-130 Hercules landed with 20 pallets of humanitarian aid destined for the earthquake-stricken residents of Bam, Iran. The cargo included medical supplies, food and purified water. American airmen and Iranian soldiers worked side-by-side

forming a human chain to unload the 20,000 pounds of material. The supplies were then trucked to Bam more than 100 miles away. The humanitarian mission was the first American flight into Iran since the Iranian hostage crisis ended in January 1981. (AFPN)



Time magazine chooses U.S. military as Person of the Year

by K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

Three 1st Armored Division soldiers — Sgt. Ronald Buxton, Spc. Billie Grimes and Sgt. Marquette Whiteside — graced the cover of Time magazine Dec. 22. They represent “The American Soldier” — all men and women in uniform — who have been chosen as Time’s 2003 Person of the Year. “For uncommon skills and service, for the choices each one of them has made and the ones still ahead, for the challenge of defending not only our freedoms but those barely stirring half a world away, the American soldier is Time’s Person of the Year,” editor-at-large Nancy Gibbs wrote in the opening essay of the magazine. “By naming the American soldier as Person of the Year,

we’re using that term in its broadest sense, to stand for all of those in a U.S. uniform who go in harm’s way, including (sailors, airmen and Marines),” managing editor Jim Kelly wrote in a letter to readers. The cover is a fitting tribute to these young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country and are over there doing a superb job, said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers. Time officials said the naming of a Person of the Year recognizes “the person or persons who most affected the news and our lives, for good or ill, and embodied what was important about the year, for better or worse.” The war in Iraq dominated the 2003 covers, said Mark Thompson, Washington correspondent for Time. In the October-November timeframe, he

said nominees included President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Thompson said the more Time officials talked about the cover, the more they realized it should be the carpenter’s tools and not the carpenter they honored, so they opted for the soldier. “It’s a grand choice,” said Thompson, who has been in Afghanistan and flown over northern Iraq with U.S. troops. Time’s tradition of naming a Person of the Year began in 1927 when the Man of the Year honor, as it was then called, went to Charles Lindbergh for his solo flight over the Atlantic. This is not the first time the magazine has chosen U.S. servicemembers for its annual honor. “The American Fighting-Man” was Time’s Man of the Year in 1950 as the Korean War was being fought.

DeCA: No beef involved in recall

by Bonnie Powell
Defense Commissary Agency

Defense Commissary Agency officials are monitoring the ever-changing situation involving a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease. Since Dec. 23 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted a limited recall of 10,000 pounds of beef that may have originated from the infected cow and from cows slaughtered at the same time and location. “No beef in any of our 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in a USDA recall,” said Col. Mark Wolken, chief of public health, safety and security for the agency. “The USDA has stated the U.S. beef supply is safe and the beef recall resulted from an abundance of caution, not fear that the meat is infected. Should the USDA make a determination that there is a danger, DeCA would be first to react to protect the health of our customers.” Since the first U.S. case of BSE was identified, commissary customers have raised questions about the safety of beef purchased at their local commissary. Questions range from “should I return the ground beef I bought last week?” to “has my commissary received meat from the infected cow?” The answer to both questions is “no” said Wolken, an Army veterinarian.

Wolken said the brain, spinal cord and lower intestine — where the protein or prion that is believed to cause BSE is found — is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply. USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam as well as Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada. “No commissaries received any of those shipments,” Wolken emphasized. “But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions. We’re all affected by this — we’re all concerned.” Mad cow is a fatal disease that destroys the brain of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions and is thought to be spread from animal to animal through contaminated feed. A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products. About 140 deaths linked to mad cow since the mid-1990s have mainly been in Britain. For the latest developments on the current situation as well as for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, commissary customers can check the food safety link at www.commissaries.com.

MLK observance

Holloman's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance program is 9:30 to 11 a.m., Thursday in the chapel. The guest speaker is Dr. Mikal A. Brown, Christian Joy Center senior pastor. Dress is uniform of the day.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Braden Friday at 572-5345 or Senior Master Sgt. Jasper Lowe at 572-5048.

Red Cross

The Red Cross schedule of events is as follows:

Community first aid: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday in Alamogordo.

Infant and child CPR: 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 20 in Alamogordo.

For more information, call the Holloman Red Cross at 572-7066.

HazMart giveaway

Paints and other items are available for free issue at the HazMart. The program allows authorized users access to a variety of hazardous chemical items free of charge. To participate, your shop must be authorized for the item and the item must be in HazMart's free issue area.

For more information, call the HazMart at 572-7899, 572-3093 or 572-7608.

New York Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia NY, home of the C-130 ski-birds, has Traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1 and 6C0X1. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456, (800) 524-5070 or e-mail Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

On the BIG SCREEN



Tupac: Resurrection (R)

7 p.m., today

Timeline (PG-13)

7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

Gothika (R)

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday

For a limited time, tickets are 99 cents.

Free tutoring

The Company Grade Officers Council offers free tutoring 4 to 6 p.m., every Tuesday in the base library's group study rooms. The focus is on college level math, science and English in a small group setting, but the group will try to accommodate other subjects as well.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Chris Wojtko at 572-5038.

CAC

The commander's access channel, cable channel 3, offers up-to-date information about current security conditions, closures on base, hours of various programs and community information. The commander's access channel also features the following videos today through Thursday:

- Air Force Television News: 6, 9 and 11 a.m.; 2, 5 and 7 p.m.

- This is Team Holloman: 7 a.m. and 12, 3 and 6 p.m.

AA meetings

Open meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous are 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the conference room of the base chapel.

HESO

Holloman's Enlisted Spouses Organization meets at 6 p.m., the second Tuesday of the month in the community center.

HOSC

Holloman Officers' Spouses Club invites all Holloman officers' spouses to Game Show Night at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 21 in the officers' club. Make reservations or cancellations by noon, Jan. 20. Last names beginning with A-M should call Christine Juedeman at 479-2222 and last names beginning with N-Z should call Pat Hendrix at 434-5291.

Wing run

Starting Jan. 16, the wing run is the third Friday of every month. Between October and March, the run begins at 3 p.m. Between April and September, the run begins at 7 a.m.

Form up by groups/squadrons at the football field. Squadron commanders specify uniform.

For more information, call the fitness and sports center at 572-3256.

Volunteers

Palace Envoy request for volunteers, officer requirements (captain only) for operations officer, bilateral affairs office, office of defense cooperation in Georgia.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Let's see some ID

Army Sgt. Loren Pieper checks an identification card at the La Luz gate. The gate is open from 5:30 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The gate is closed weekends and holidays.

The operations officer executes the Joint Contact Team Program, a high priority, high visibility effort of national importance. The JCTP mission requires dealing effectively with senior officers in countries which have had few previous contacts with the U.S. military. Therefore, operations officer nominees must possess a high level of interpersonal skills, exceptional maturity, flexibility and self discipline. Nominees must meet all physical, weight and mental fitness standards as directed by the Air Force. ODC's are composed of team members from all branches of the armed services and provide an excellent opportunity for joint exposure and career broadening. The

tour length is 179 days. No AEF or short tour credit is given.

Volunteer packages must be faxed no later than the "nomination due" date to HQ USAFE/XPZI, point of contact Ginny Basl, at DSN (314) 980-9729. Contact Ginny Basl at DSN (314) 480-8944, (505) 480-6231 or e-mail virginia.basl@ramstein.af.mil.

Protestant Women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets at the Holloman Chapel Annex, 6:30 p.m., Thursdays.

Child care is available upon R.S.V.P. to Lisa Bittle at 479-3006.

The current study is "Her Name is Woman" by Gien Karssen.

What's going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond

Stars-N-Parks

The National Public Observatory's Stars-N-Parks program is 6:40 p.m., Jan. 24 at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park's group shelter. Cost is \$4 per vehicle for entry to the park. Visitors observe the moon, Venus, Mars, Saturn and the winter sky.

For more information, call Charles Wood at 437-8284.

Singin' in the Rain

"Singin' In the Rain" plays at 2 p.m., Jan. 25 at the Flickinger Center. Cost is \$24 for adults and \$18 for children. For more information, call the Flickinger Center at (505) 437-2202 or go to the Web site www.zianet.com/flickinger.

Flook! & Susan

"Flook! & Susan McKeown" plays at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 30. Cost is \$20 for

adults and \$15 for children. For more information, call the Flickinger Center at (505) 437-2202 or go to the Web site www.zianet.com/flickinger.

No Strings Theatre

No Strings Theatre Company presents "A Prelude to a Kiss" at 7 p.m., Thursdays, 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 and 7 p.m., Sundays, today through Jan. 25 at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. Call (505) 523-1223 for current prices.

White Sands

During February, the White Sands National Monument Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Dunes Drive may be entered from 7 a.m. to sunset daily, except during missile test closures. All visitors must exit the park by one hour after sunset. Cost is \$3 for people 17 and over and free for children.

Children's theatre

Missoula Children's Theatre presents "Alice in Wonderland" at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday at the Rohovec Fine Arts Center on the NMSU-A campus. Advance tickets are available at The Blue Stone, TLC Portraits, and the community center. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children.

For more information, call 434-1776 or 479-4023.

Nature walk

The White Sands National Monument Sunset Stroll Nature Walk is 4:30 p.m., Feb. 1 through 8 and 4:45 p.m., Feb. 9 through 25.

For more information and reservations, call 479-6124, 679-2599 extension 232 or visit the park's Web site www.nps.gov/whsa.



Photo by Laura Pellegrino

Work it!

Suzanne Buck leads an aerobics class at the Fitness and Sports Center. For information about classes, visit the fitness center or call 572-3229.

Concurrent receipt pay reality in Jan. 1

Military retirees will begin receiving both retired pay and Veterans Affairs disability compensation as the disability offset is phased out.

Previously, the offset reduced the amount of the military retiree's pay by an amount equal to any disability payment received from the VA.

Legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of both forms of compensation was signed by President Bush on Nov. 24.

The legislation will deliver billions to more than 200,000 disabled military retirees and takes effect Jan. 1.

Public Law 108-136 (Sections 641 and 642 of Public Law) authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the VA disability offset to retired pay.

This will affect service-members with nondisability retirements, without regard to years of service.

Those who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. They must have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

In all cases, the retiree must be rated at least 50-percent disabled by VA.

Today, more than 200,000 military retirees meet the criteria required to receive an increase in their retired pay, said VA officials.

This legislation expands the field of eligibility for combat-related special compensation to include retirees with 20 years of qualifying service, who have a combined disability rating of less than 60 percent.

It expands eligibility for a tax-exempt payment to replace retired pay lost to the concurrent receipt ban and is open to retirees with 20 or more years of service and disabilities tied to combat or combat-related training.

Reserve retirees are in-

cluded; however, people who retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authority are not.

While this change expands the number of veterans currently receiving CRSC from about 4,800 today, eligible retirees may not receive both concurrent receipt payments and combat-related special compensation at the same time.

The act requires an annual "open season" to be conducted to allow veterans eligible for both concurrent payment and CRSC to choose between the two options.

Details on how the annual open season will be conducted will be published separately.

Because the act also repeals the authorization for special compensation for the severely disabled which provides veterans benefits for those with disabilities greater than 60 percent, about 37,000 SCSD recipients will be the first to see increases to their retired pay effective Jan. 1 for the payment dated Feb. 2.

System changes are required to fully implement the legislation and will take several months to complete, said VA officials.

People with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service are working closely with the VA to implement this legislation and issue the payments to all eligible retirees as soon as possible, said DFAS officials.

When full implementation is completed, payments will include monies that are due retroactively to Jan. 1.

Military retirees who are interested should watch for updated information on the myPay and DFAS Web sites. Information on veterans' benefits is available at www.va.gov. (AFP) *(AFP)*